**Semaphore’s Pacesetter CDE Awarded New Markets Tax Credit Allocation**

Semaphore is pleased to announce that it has received $30 Million in New Markets Tax Credit Allocation awards in the latest allocation from the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund. The NMTC program awards, announced last week, work to stimulate equity investment from the private sector in low-income communities by providing a substantial tax credit to investors over a period of 7 years. Semaphore has been operating Pacesetter CDE for the past three years and entered into agreement with its majority shareholders, Wells Fargo and Bank of America, last year to acquire 100% of the stock of the firm. Pacesetter CDE was one of only 85 Community Development Entities (CDEs) nationwide that received an award this year. It had previously invested $60 Million in tax credits in two earlier allocations.

Last year, Pacesetter CDE completed its most recent NMTC allocation for hard to find operating business financing, providing equity investments and/or senior debt. Approximately one-fourth of the allocation was dedicated to investment in distressed rural communities. Among projects we invested in were:

* Finance, as a lead catalyst, the revitalization of West Liberty, Kentucky whose downtown area was devastated by a series of category E3 tornadoes in March 2012. Health/Wellness and other facilities will create and retain nearly 500 permanent jobs while also supporting a medically underserved area.
* A major health care facility and eye care clinic establishing a 30,000 square foot building with 35 full examination rooms, lecture halls, 24 staff, and 98 clinical interns. It is sited at and affiliated with the School of Optometry at UIW in San Antonio for which Pacesetter CDE earlier financed its creation.
* Work with the Boy Scouts of America to provide a meaningfully improved outdoor experience at a wilderness camp for several thousand participants including those in the ScoutReach program targeting disadvantaged youth.
* A new five story, 120,000 square foot hospital building expansion bringing care personnel from two non-NMTC qualified locations to the inner-city.

 “The tax credits awarded in past years have gone toward preserving hundreds of thousands of jobs and bringing community facilities and new businesses into neighborhoods that desperately needed them,” stated Treasury Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions Cyrus Amir-Mokri in announcing the award. “Semaphore and Pacesetter CDE are thrilled to extend our participation and expertise in helping to revitalize these communities while continuing to create jobs and opportunity throughout America,” said Mark S. DiSalvo CEO of Semaphore and President of Pacesetter CDE. “Our partnership with investors and dedication to searching out qualified projects in low-income communities will continue in earnest,” added DiSalvo.

*Semaphore (**[www.sema4usa.com](http://www.sema4usa.com/)) is a leading global professional services provider of Private Equity and Venture Capital funds-under-management and diligence services. Semaphore currently holds fiduciary obligations as General Partner for six Private Equity and Venture Capital funds, is a New Markets Tax Credit provider and advises General and Limited Partners as well as corporations around the world. Semaphore’s corporate offices are in Boston with principal offices in New York, London and Dallas.*